

enemy soldiers, but also about a soldier who is fighting beside her.

Over 30,000 brave women answered our Nation's call to duty to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fourteen of them have given their lives to ensure that democracy flourishes in a country that has only recently been liberated from brutality and repression.

These soldiers are performing their duties with courage and honor. At a time when the insurgency and unrest continue in Iraq, these women continue to defend Iraqi citizens from senseless violence. They should not have to be concerned about having to defend themselves against the most senseless violence of all—sexual assault perpetrated by their fellow soldiers.

Women make invaluable contributions to our armed forces. In fact, it is safe to say that our military could not perform all that we currently require of it without the service and sacrifices of female soldiers. When we brutalize the very people who are willing to sacrifice their life for the defense of liberty and freedom, we harm the institution that protects us all and undermine the principles upon which this great Nation was founded.

What makes last week's reports on sexual assault more distressing is that this is not the first time female service members have come forward with allegations that they were raped and assaulted by their male compatriots. We have heard these accusations before the Navy's Annual Tailhook Symposium, the Army's Aberdeen Proving Grounds, and the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

I commend the women who have come forward to report these reprehensible acts. Far too often women suffer in silence, too afraid of possible reprisals that may come from reporting a sexual assault. This is true in civilian life and must be doubly so in military life. To help these victims, the military must take immediate and concrete steps to address their needs. We must ensure that victims have access to medical care and confidential counseling. If we fail to create an environment where women feel safe to report their assaults, we risk teaching them that, in order to advance their military careers, they must remain silent.

I am pleased that the Department of Defense has launched an investigation into these allegations, and that my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee recently heard testimony addressing this issue. Still we must do more. It is imperative that we all continue to work together to send to send a clear signal to the entire military that any sexual misconduct will not be tolerated, and offenders will be vigorously prosecuted and punished. It is time to ensure this issue is given the urgency and attention it deserves.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SGT RANDY S. ROSENBERG

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a special per-

son, SGT Randy S. Rosenberg of Berlin, NH.

Tragically, on January 24, 2004, this courageous young soldier, only 23 years of age, gave his last full measure for our Nation when a vehicle-based explosive device detonated near his military vehicle in Khalidiyah, Iraq, located in the Sunni Triangle, about 70 miles west of Baghdad. Randy and two of his comrades lost their lives in the explosion and six other American soldiers were wounded in the attack near the Euphrates River. At the time of the hostile action SGT Rosenberg was serving as an infantryman in Company B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, a component of Task Force "All American" which was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Randy joined the United States Army in September 1998, after graduating from Berlin High School, where he played hockey and baseball. He completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, GA, and was assigned to Fort Hood, TX, since March 1999. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, posthumous, and Bronze Star, posthumous. This was his second tour of duty in the Middle East, having served previously in Kuwait.

His wife, Misty, is from Goffstown, NH. His mother and stepfather are Rick and Sandy Fournier. Sandy works in the Berlin City Hall. His sister, Tanya, 15, is a student at Berlin High School. SGT Rosenberg also leaves his maternal grandfather, Saul Rosenberg, and his maternal grandmother, Shirley Gemitti, and her husband, William Gemitti, a veteran of the Korean war.

Patriots from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Iraq—and Randy served in that fine tradition. Daniel Webster said:

God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.

Randy was one of those proud and dedicated volunteers who chose to serve our Nation, and guard our precious liberty, and for that we will always owe our sincere gratitude.

The sudden death of a young person is especially difficult for family and friends. In November 1864, President Abraham Lincoln was informed by the War Department of a mother who had lost five sons in the Civil War. He wrote the mother:

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.

I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Family, friends, and fellow soldiers will no longer be able to enjoy the company of SGT Randy S. Rosenberg. Strangers will never have the opportunity to know his friendship. Yet memories of this young patriot will last forever with those who were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to know him. May God bless Randy Rosenberg.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

A horrendous crime occurred 4 years ago today in Richmond, VA. There, a homeless man was killed and his severed head left atop a footbridge in James River Park near a popular meeting place for gay men.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in October 1960, then-U.S. Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy, visited the University of Michigan in the heat of his successful Presidential campaign. The Presidential aspirant and self-proclaimed graduate "of the Michigan of the East" stood on the steps of the Student Union and called for the creation of a program that would enable college graduates to serve their Nation as part of a "greater purpose" rooted in service.

Forty-three years later, this program, the Peace Corps, has been a resounding success. Seeking to promote world peace and friendship by sending American volunteers to participate in community service in villages and towns across the world, this program addresses the critical shortage in technical capacity that many parts of the world face. Further, it fosters increased cultural understanding. Peace Corps volunteers, witting or not, represent their Nation while abroad and upon returning home help promote increased global awareness here as well.

President Kennedy, in his inaugural address, called for a "grand and global alliance" to fight tyranny, poverty and disease. With over 7,500 current volunteers in 71 nations, the Peace Corps has been a key part of this alliance. Since its inception, over 170,000 volunteers have worked in 137 nations in a variety of programs. An increasing number of Peace Corps volunteers are over 60